

Low German

<https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>

October 6, 2020

Cite as

Hartmann, Katharina, Anke Himmelreich, Melissa Jeckel, and Peter W. Smith (2020): Agreement Resolution in Coordination Structures in the World's Languages. Ms., Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main (url: <https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/>)

1 Overview

Language family:	Indo-European (Germanic)
Countries:	Northern and western Germany, Eastern Netherlands, Southern Denmark
Number of speakers:	6.7 million
Agreement features:	number, person
Attested word orders:	SV, VS
Coordination types:	and, or

(The data were elicited with a native speaker from Western Pomerania.)

2 Patterns for number

2.1 Coordination with “and”

2.1.1 SV order

Pattern: There is plural marking in all combinations.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct		
	sg	pl
sg	pl	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (1) De Jung un de Mann löpen.
the boy.SG and the man.SG run.3PL
'The boy and the man run.'

- (2) a. De Jungen un de Mann löpen.
the boy.PL and the man.SG run.3PL
'The boys and the man run.'
- b. De Jung un de Männer löpen.
the boy.SG and the man.PL run.3PL
'The boy and the men run.'

2.1.2 VS order

Pattern: There is closest conjunct agreement.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
	sg	sg
sg	sg	sg
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (3) Morgen löpt de Jung un de Mann to Kirch.
tomorrow run.3SG the boy.SG and the man.SG to church
'Tomorrow the boy and the man are running to church.'
- (4) a. Morgen löpen de Jungen un de Mann to Kirch.
tomorrow run.3PL the boy.PL and the man.SG to church
'Tomorrow the boys and the man are running to church.'
- b. Morgen löpt de Jung un de Männer to Kirch.
tomorrow run.3SG the boy.SG and the man.PL to church
'Tomorrow the boy and the men are running to church.'

2.2 Coordination with "or"

2.2.1 SV order

Pattern: There is plural marking in all combinations.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
	pl	pl
sg	pl	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (5) De Jung oder de Mann löpen.
the boy.SG or the man.SG run.3PL
'The boy or the man run.'
- (6) a. De Jungen oder de Mann löpen.
the boy.PL or the man.SG run.3PL
'The boys or the man run.'
- b. De Jung oder de Männer löpen.
the boy.SG or the man.PL run.3PL
'The boy or the men run.'

2.2.2 VS order

Pattern: There is closest conjunct agreement.

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	sg	sg
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

- (7) Morgen löpt de Jung oder de Mann to Kirch.
tomorrow run.3SG the boy.SG or the man.SG to church
'Tomorrow the boy or the man are running to church.'
- (8) a. Morgen löpen de Jungen oder de Mann to Kirch.
tomorrow run.3PL the boy.PL or the man.SG to church
'Tomorrow the boys or the man are running to church.'
- b. Morgen löpt de Jung oder de Männer to Kirch.
tomorrow run.3SG the boy.SG or the man.PL to church
'Tomorrow the boy or the men are running to church.'

3 Patterns for person

3.1 Coordination with "and"

3.1.1 SV order

Pattern: All mismatches are resolved to 3rd person plural. (Note: 3rd and 1st person plural are syncretic.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		3pl	3pl
2	3pl		3pl
3	3pl	3pl	

Examples:

- (9) a. Ik un du löpen.
I and you run.3PL
'I and you run.'
- b. Du un ik löpen.
you and I run.3PL
'You and I run.'
- c. He un ik löpen.
he and I run.3PL
'He and I run.'
- d. Ik un he löpen.
I and he run.3PL
'I and he run.'
- e. He un du löpen.
he and you run.3PL

- ‘He and you run.’
 f. Du un he löpen.
 you and he run.3PL
 ‘You and he run.’

3.1.2 VS order

Pattern: There is closest conjunct agreement. (Number is resolved to plural if the first conjunct is 1st person.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	2sg		2sg
3	3sg	3sg	

Examples:

- (10) a. Morgen löpen ik un du to Kirch.
 tomorrow run.1PL I and you to church
 ‘Tomorrow I and you are running to church.’
 b. Morgen löpst du un ik to Kirch.
 tomorrow run.2SG you and I to church
 ‘Tomorrow you and I are running to church.’
 c. Morgen löpen ik un he to Kirch.
 tomorrow run.1PL I and he to church
 ‘Tomorrow I and he are running to church.’
 d. Morgen löpt he un ik to Kirch.
 tomorrow run.3SG he and I to church
 ‘Tomorrow he and I are running to church.’
 e. Morgen löpst du un he to Kirch.
 tomorrow run.2SG you and he to church
 ‘Tomorrow you and he are running to church.’
 f. Morgen löpt he un du to Kirch.
 tomorrow run.3SG he and you to church
 ‘Tomorrow he and you are running to church.’

3.2 Coordination with “or”

3.2.1 SV order

Pattern: All mismatches are resolved to 3rd person plural. (Note: 3rd and 1st person plural are syncretic.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		3pl	3pl
2	3pl		3pl
3	3pl	3pl	

Examples:

- (11)
- a. Ik oder du löpen.
I or you run.3PL
'I or you run.'
 - b. Du oder ik löpen.
you or I run.3PL
'You or I run.'
 - c. He oder ik löpen.
he or I run.3PL
'He or I run.'
 - d. Ik oder he löpen.
I or he run.3PL
'I or he run.'
 - e. He oder du löpen.
he or you run.3PL
'He or you run.'
 - f. Du oder he löpen.
you or he run.3PL
'You or he run.'

3.2.2 VS order

Pattern: There is closest conjunct agreement. (Number is resolved to plural if the first conjunct is 1st person.)

1st conjunct \ 2nd conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	2sg		2sg
3	3sg	3sg	

Examples:

- (12)
- a. Morgen löpen ik oder du to Kirch.
tomorrow run.1PL I or you to church
'Tomorrow I or you are running to church.'
 - b. Morgen löpst du oder ik to Kirch.
tomorrow run.2SG you or I to church
'Tomorrow you or I are running to church.'
 - c. Morgen löpen ik oder he to Kirch.
tomorrow run.1PL I or he to church
'Tomorrow I or he are running to church.'
 - d. Morgen löpt he oder ik to Kirch.
tomorrow run.3SG he or I to church
'Tomorrow he or I are running to church.'
 - e. Morgen löpst du oder he to Kirch.
tomorrow run.2SG you or he to church
'Tomorrow you or he are running to church.'
 - f. Morgen löpt he oder du to Kirch.
tomorrow run.3SG he or you to church
'Tomorrow he or you are running to church.'